

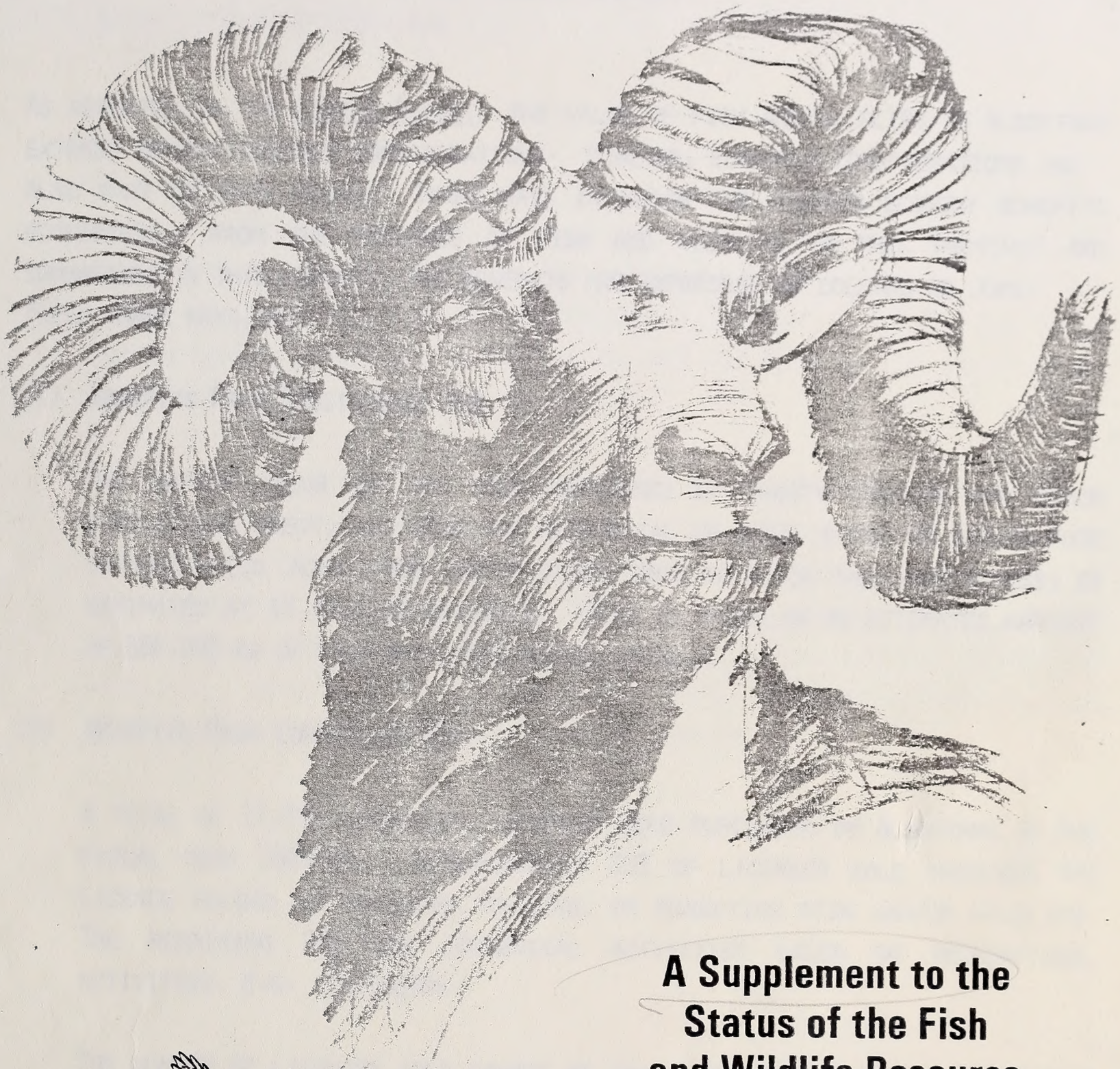
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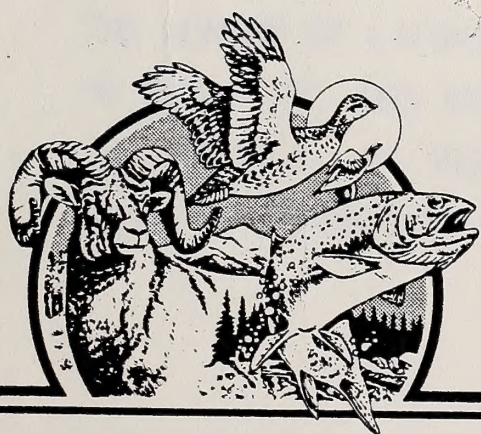
21

FEB 25 1984

Fish and Wildlife Contributions to the Alberta Economy



**A Supplement to the
Status of the Fish
and Wildlife Resource
in Alberta (1984)**



Alberta Fish & Wildlife
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Alberta

ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
Fish and Wildlife Division

FISH AND WILDLIFE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ALBERTA ECONOMY

AS REPORTED IN THE STATUS REPORT, THE VALUE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE TO ALBERTANS EXTENDS BEYOND MONETARY CONSIDERATIONS. HOWEVER, ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS ARE ALSO PART OF THIS VALUE. THREE WAYS IN WHICH THE ALBERTA ECONOMY BENEFITS ECONOMICALLY FROM THE PRESENCE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE IN THIS PROVINCE ARE SUMMARIZED IN THIS REPORT. THE BENEFITS ARE EXPRESSED IN DOLLARS OR JOBS. THESE THREE WAYS ARE:

(1) BENEFITS FROM SUBSISTENCE USE

THE MARKET VALUE OF THE MEAT HARVESTED BY TREATY INDIANS AND OTHER SUBSISTENCE USERS, WHO HAVE THE HISTORICAL OR LEGAL RIGHT TO GATHER FOOD ON UNOCCUPIED CROWN LANDS AND ON OTHER LANDS TO WHICH THEY HAVE ACCESS, IS ESTIMATED AT \$8 MILLION ANNUALLY. THIS IS BASED ON AN ESTIMATED HARVEST OF 500,000 KG OF FISH AND 6,000 MOOSE ANNUALLY.

(2) BENEFITS FROM COMMERCIAL USE

A TOTAL OF 12,766 COMMERCIAL LICENCES WERE PURCHASED BY ALBERTANS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 1983/84. APPROXIMATELY 80% OF LICENCES SOLD INVOLVED THE LICENCE HOLDER IN CATCHING, RAISING, OR MARKETING FISH AND/OR WILDLIFE. THE REMAINING 20% WAS COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES BASED ON RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, E.G. TAXIDERMY.

THE NUMBER OF LICENCES SOLD CANNOT BE TRANSLATED DIRECTLY INTO THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME JOBS CREATED AS AN INDIVIDUAL MAY HOLD MORE THAN ONE LICENCE. FOR EXAMPLE, AN INDIVIDUAL MAY BE A COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN, A GUIDE OR A TRAPPER, DEPENDING ON THE SEASON.

FISH AND WILDLIFE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ALBERTA ECONOMY

As reported in the Status Report, the value of fish and wildlife to Albertans extends beyond monetary considerations. However, economic considerations are also part of this value. Three ways in which the Alberta economy benefits economically from the presence of fish and wildlife in this province are summarized in this report. The benefits are expressed in dollars or jobs. These three ways are:

(1) Benefits from Subsistence Use

The market value of the meat harvested by Treaty Indians and other subsistence users who have the historical or legal right to gather food on unoccupied land is difficult to estimate. It is based on an estimated harvest of 300,000 kg of fish and 5,000 Moose annually.

(2) Benefits from Commercial Use

A total of 25,786 commercial licences were purchased by Albertans in the fiscal year 1983/84. Approximately 50% of licences sold involved the licence holder in catching, raising, or marketing fish and/or wildlife. The remaining 50% was commercial activities based on recreational activities, e.g., taxidermy.

The number of licences sold cannot be translated directly into the number of full-time jobs created as an individual may hold more than one licence.

<https://archive.org/details/fishwildlifecontrib1984>

(3) BENEFITS FROM RECREATIONAL USE

RESIDENTS, NON-RESIDENT CANADIANS, AND NON-RESIDENT ALIENS REPORTED^{1,2} SPENDING A TOTAL OF \$860 MILLION³ ANNUALLY ON TRIPS TAKEN PRIMARILY TO VIEW, FISH OR HUNT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES IN ALBERTA. THIS MONEY CAN BE VIEWED AS "TOURIST" MONEY BECAUSE A TOURIST IS DEFINED AS ANY PERSON TRAVELLING IN EXCESS OF 80 KM (50 MI.) FROM HOME ON A TRIP FOR WHICH AT LEAST ONE PURPOSE IS PERSONAL ENJOYMENT. THE AVERAGE DAILY EXPENDITURE BY CANADIANS IN ALBERTA WAS \$43 FOR VIEWING, \$47 FOR FISHING, AND \$72 FOR HUNTING (1980 DOLLARS).

THE SECONDARY BENEFITS OF THESE EXPENDITURES, AS THE MONEY CIRCULATES INTO ASSOCIATED BUSINESS, GENERATED OVER A BILLION DOLLARS (\$1,047,479,451) OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND CREATED 33,730 FULL-TIME JOBS (MAN/YEARS).⁴ ABOUT 70% OF THESE JOBS WERE CREATED IN THE RETAIL SECTOR THROUGH PURCHASES OF EQUIPMENT USED PRIMARILY FOR VIEWING, FISHING OR HUNTING WILDLIFE. ABOUT 20% OF THE JOBS WERE CREATED IN TRANSPORTATION AND THE REMAINING 10% IN ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES.

CONCLUSION

THE SUBSISTENCE, COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL USE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO THE PROVINCIAL ECONOMY, ESPECIALLY IF ONE CONSIDERS THAT:

1. THIS IS A RENEWABLE RESOURCE, CAPABLE OF GENERATING THIS ACTIVITY YEAR AFTER YEAR IF PROPERLY MANAGED, AND
2. MANY OF THE JOBS CREATED OR MONEY EARNED OR SPENT IS GENERATED IN AREAS WHERE FEW OTHER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES EXIST.
3. AS THE RESULT OF DIRECT OR INDIRECT TAXES 50 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR SPENT ON FISH AND WILDLIFE-BASED RECREATION BECOMES GOVERNMENT REVENUE⁵.

ENDNOTES

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF WILDLIFE TO CANADIANS. THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1981 NATIONAL SURVEY. 1983. MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND SERVICES CANADA, OTTAWA.
2. THE SPORT FISHERY IN ALBERTA. FACTS AND FIGURES FOR 1975 AND 1980. 1982. ALBERTA ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, FISH AND WILDLIFE DIVISION, EDMONTON. FISHERIES MANAGEMENT REPORT No. 28.
3. 1982 ALBERTA TRAVEL SURVEY. A NON-RESIDENT VISITOR STUDY, VOLUME 1, SUMMARY REPORT. 1982. ALBERTA TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS, EDMONTON.

1980 FIGURES INFLATED TO 1982 DOLLARS FOR CANADIANS. EXPENDITURES BY NON-CANADIAN VISITORS WAS CALCULATED TO BE A MINIMUM ADDITIONAL \$20 MILLION, MAKING A TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF ABOUT \$860 MILLION. THE \$20 MILLION EXPENDITURE FOR NON-CANADIANS IS VERY CONSERVATIVE AND IS BASED ONLY ON THOSE 10% OF VISITORS WHO FISH OR HUNT AND NOT ON THOSE COMING TO VIEW WILDLIFE, EVEN THOUGH A 1982 ALBERTA TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS STUDY REPORTED THAT THREE-QUARTERS OF NON-CANADIAN VACATIONERS WERE "...PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH ALBERTA'S UNSPOILED NATURAL BEAUTY, VARIETY OF INTERESTING SCENERY, QUIET RELAXATION AND TRANQUILITY".

4. ECONOMIC MULTIPLIERS FOR ALBERTA INDUSTRIES AND COMMODITIES. MARCH, 1984. ALBERTA BUREAU OF STATISTICS, ALBERTA TREASURY. EDMONTON.
5. MR. ANDRE JACQUEMOT. CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE (PERS. COMM, DEC/84).

